

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

SP - 213/81
19 October 1981
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, National Intelligence Council
FROM: National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Programs
SUBJECT: Proposed Rand Projects

1. Reference is made to your note of 8 October 1981 concerning Rand projects. []

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2. In general, I believe we should have latitude to use Rand resources to address those topics which are relevant to the major issues facing us, and topics for which Rand is uniquely qualified. I am unable to judge whether all the projects proposed by [] meet this criteria, but I offer the following comments on those which are pertinent to intelligence on strategic programs []

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--Topic A.1., "Soviet Responses to New US Defense and Foreign Policies," covers a lesser included part of what I understand will be covered in NIE 11-4. This suggests that [] might be tasked to provide a paper that would be the basis for drafting NIE 11-4. Given the perceived need for the NIE, however, the paper would have to be prepared more quickly than envisioned in the Rand proposal. []

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--Two of the other projects--A.2. and A.4.--dealing with Eastern Europe are indirectly but importantly related to Soviet strategic nuclear policies and prospects. It is suggested that Rand work on these topics might be shaped into a single project contributing to national intelligence on the implications of developments in Eastern Europe on Soviet security and foreign policies and the Warsaw Pact threat to NATO. []

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3. One area that I am concerned with is our understanding of how well the greatly improved Soviet air defense system will perform against the improved US bomber force in the late 1980s. I have not yet seen any convincing work on this subject, despite what is being said about the Soviet capabilities in this interaction. Rand has significant strength in addressing this problem (notably, [] and it may be useful to get some help from [] in about six months. 25X11

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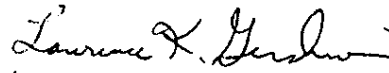
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4. I do not yet have a sufficient understanding of the scope of CIA and Intelligence Community research and production on Soviet strategic programs to suggest how these programs might best be supplemented. In development of the NIO/SP research and production program for 1982, the potential contribution of the Rand Corporation will be considered.

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Lawrence K. Gershwin

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